

# BALLOON MANOR 2008

## **SCARE U: GHOUL SCHOOL**

*To Benefit Teens Living with Cancer*

**New location! Auditions! Party in the Manor!**

Rochester, NY – IT’S BACK and it’s better than ever! The world-renowned, ten-room, 10,000-square-foot haunted house made from 100,000 balloons called Balloon Manor returns **Friday, October 17 through Sunday, October 26** at a new venue: **The Mall at Greece Ridge** (271 Greece Ridge Center Drive) in the Bon Ton wing. **Balloon Manor 2008** is themed *Scare U: Ghoul School* – a frightfully funny monster college featuring classes in Anti-Social Studies, Under-World History, Inhumanities and much more.

The first *Balloon Manor* in 2004 was located at Southtown Plaza in Henrietta, while Manors 2006 (*Return to Balloon Manor*) and 2007 (*Elastic Park: the World’s First-Ever Balloon Scream Park*) were at Irondequoit’s Medley Centre.

“We’ve been welcomed so graciously by The Mall at Greece Ridge,” says **Manor Founder and Artistic Director Larry Moss**. “Our family-friendly event ties in perfectly with its atmosphere, and we are thrilled to be in such a vibrant and friendly space!”

Also for the first time, the Manor is partnering exclusively with one local health organization, **Teens Living with Cancer (TLC)**, which will underwrite the event as well as benefit from sales of all tour tickets and concessions. The previous three Manors combined donated more than \$80,000 to Rochester health charities including Wilmot Cancer Center, Al Sigl Center, Golisano Children’s Hospital and TLC.

“We wanted to partner with Balloon Manor because we feel a strong bond with the project,” says TLC founder, **Lauren Spiker**, referring to Moss and his wife Judy’s fight with cancer that inspired the first Manor fundraiser. Lauren’s late daughter, Melissa, was the inspiration for TLC, which focuses on supporting cancer-stricken teens and their families. Spiker hopes the Manor will raise awareness as well as funds for her organization.

“Teenagers are not quite children and not quite adults – whether they have cancer or not – and they have different needs than either of those groups,” explains Spiker. “Last year, our teens were involved in building the Manor; this year, they’ll also be spokespeople for the event.”

TLC’s involvement has helped to bring about another new feature: **a much-improved visitor experience**.

“The balloon art is always spectacular, but we wanted to make sure that ticket-buyers enjoy the entire event,” explains Moss, who is known all over the world for his large-scale balloon projects. “This year, we’re creating a pre-show to engage those waiting in line, and we’re reducing that wait time too. In addition, our Manor tour is being totally revamped by theatre professionals\* (**see audition notice**). None of this would be possible without TLC’s help.”

The Manor will also host (or “ghost!”) **one-of-a-kind private functions** for the first time. Those will take place when the Manor is closed on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 20 & 21. All profits will also benefit TLC. Find out more at [www.balloonmanor.com](http://www.balloonmanor.com) or 585-465-5667.

(more)

*(Balloon Manor 2008, continued)*

As in previous years, the Manor will be created by a group of professional balloon artists from all over the world led by Moss, who calls himself an “airgamist.” Previous Manors have attracted artists from as far away as Israel, Japan and Ecuador, as well as hundreds of community volunteers. More than 20,000 people have toured the previous three Manors, and many millions more have seen or heard about it through international press coverage. The Manor was the subject of an Associated Press story as well as a nationwide PBS feature, and has been featured multiple times on CNN Headline News.

A Henrietta resident, **Larry Moss** holds the **Guinness World’s Record** for the largest non-round balloon sculpture (Belgium, 2000), and created the world’s first piloted balloon sculpture, **The Flying Octopus**, in 2003. He has performed, constructed and taught his unusual art in 12 countries, and is the author of several books on the subject of balloon art ([www.airigami.com](http://www.airigami.com)).

**Balloon Manor 2008 schedule:**

**\*ACTOR AUDITIONS:** Sunday, Sept. 7, 4 – 6 PM & Monday, Sept. 8, 6 – 8 PM at The Mall at Greece Ridge (Bon Ton wing). **Open call** for actors ages 17 and over for paid positions as friendly tour guides. Script & director provided, improv skills helpful, rehearsals required.

Saturday, Oct. 11: Moss, local artists and community volunteers begin wall construction

Monday, Oct. 13: Artists from around the world join in, beginning detailed room & monster construction. All work feverishly with this temporary medium until...

Friday, Oct. 17: MANOR OPENS! 3 – 9:30 PM

Saturday, Oct. 18: 10 AM – 9:30 PM

Sunday, Oct. 19: 11 AM – 6 PM

Monday, Oct. 20: CLOSED for repairs and private events

Tuesday, Oct. 21: CLOSED for repairs and private events

Wednesday, Oct. 22: 3 – 9:30 PM

Thursday, Oct. 23: 3 – 9:30 PM

Friday, Oct. 24: 3 – 9:30 PM

Saturday, Oct. 25: 10 AM – 9:30 PM

Sunday, Oct. 26: 11 AM – 6 PM, followed by MONSTER SALE!

**Balloon Manor 2008 ticket info:** advance tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under, and will be available online starting September 1 at [www.balloonmanor.com](http://www.balloonmanor.com) and at all Wegmans *That’s T.H.E. Ticket!* locations. Tickets will be available at the door as well: \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 12 and under. Groups of 15 or more can schedule tours in advance at [www.balloonmanor.com](http://www.balloonmanor.com) or by calling 585-465-5667.

**Media please note:** high-resolution photos are available, and interviews and photo/footage opportunities may be arranged. Please visit [www.balloonmanor.com](http://www.balloonmanor.com) for more information.

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